

American Girl®

July/August 2001

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Summer Night **Fun** and **Games**

Moving? Here's What to Do

Free Puzzle Book Inside!

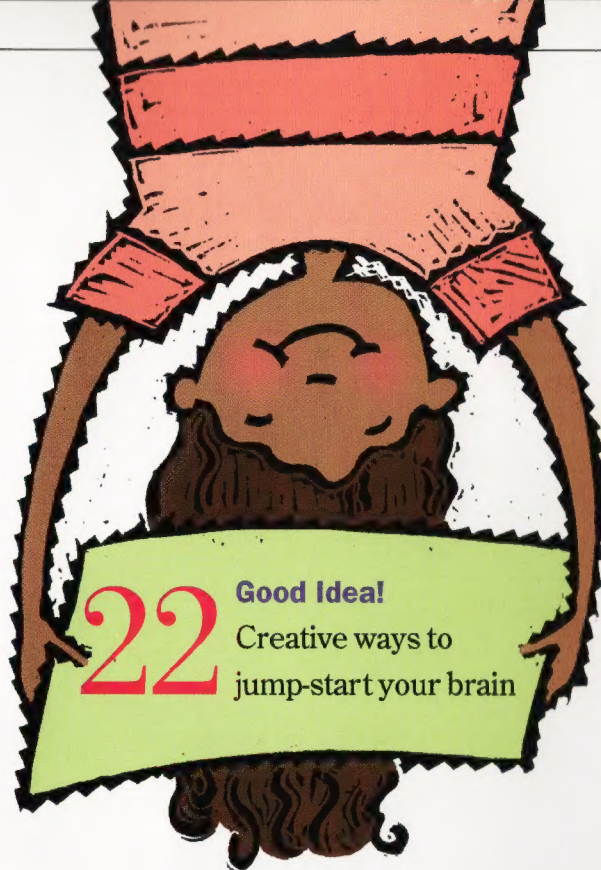
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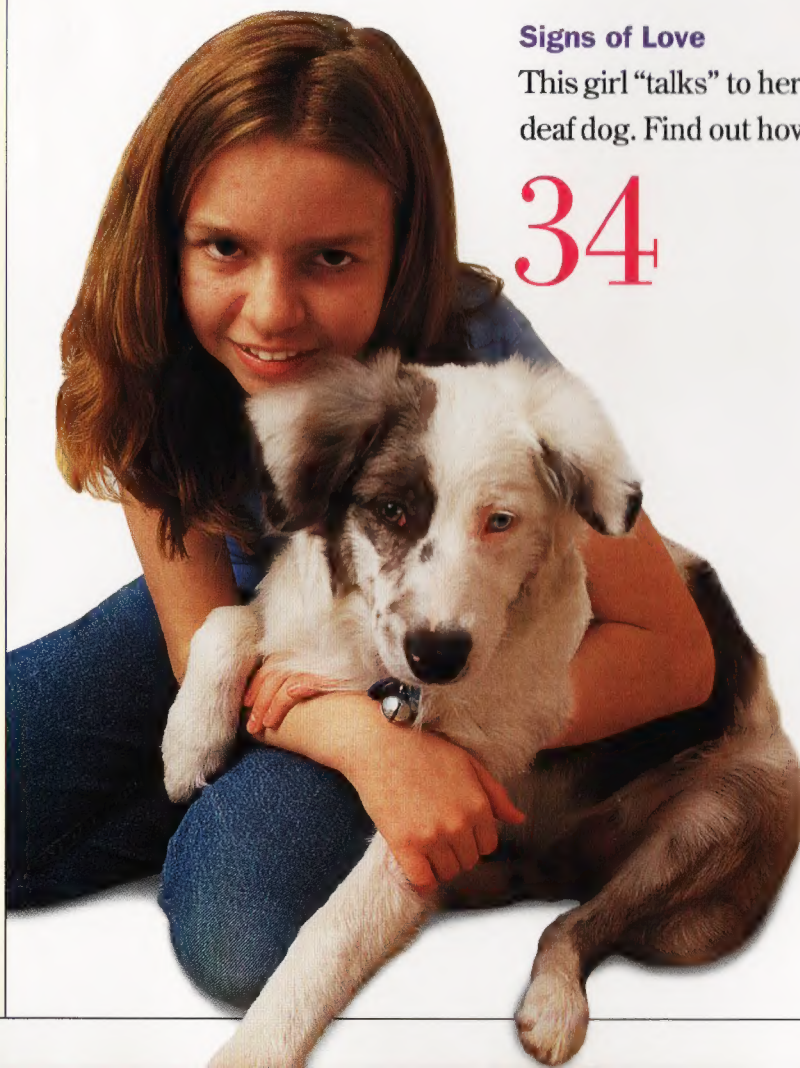
Visit www.americangirl.com to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine! Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.



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This girl "talks" to her deaf dog. Find out how!

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American Girl®

Celebrating Girls, Yesterday and Today®

www.americangirl.com



Summer Night Magic

Bright ideas to make
your nights shine!

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Allie Burfield

Alexiz Rascon

About the Cover

Meet Allie Burfield, age 11, and Alexiz Rascon, age 10. Even though it was nice and sunny, Allie and Alexiz stayed cool at our photo shoot because the water was ch-ch-chilly! To see the photos that we *didn't* use on the cover, check out

www.americangirl.com.



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

Letters from You



Birthday Bag

It was fun making "Bitty Bags" from the March/April 2001 issue. I have an idea for using them: When you go to a birthday party, put your gift inside one of the bags. That way, the birthday girl will get two surprises in one present!

Natalie Orenstein
Age 10, California



Starting Over

I really liked the story "Begin Again" in the March/April issue. A few months ago, we had to put our only cat to sleep. I am still very sad about it. But that story made me realize that things like this happen, and all we have to do is "begin again." Thank you for this story.

Kelsey Jorissen
Age 12, Minnesota



Go Team!

Thank you so much for "Catch the Spirit" in March/April. I'm a cheerleader at my school, and a lot of people think that cheerleaders don't do anything. It's

not true! My team practices more than eight hours a week. This article really shows what cheerleaders do.

Maggie Ditzel
Age 12, Pennsylvania



Homework Helper

I like reading your "Who's That Girl?" articles, especially the one in your March/April issue. I just read three books by Sharon Creech for a school project, and I loved her writing so much that I read more of her books after I finished the project. Now I am doing some research on Sharon Creech for a report, and your article will help me out!

Ally Ross :-)
Age 11, Maine

Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

AmericanGirl

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to
im_agmag_editor@pleasantco.com.

No matter how you write us, be sure to include your name and birth date. We can't use every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

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Winner of a 2000
Parents' Choice
Gold Award



The National
Magazine
Award Finalist

Girls Express



Buzzword

American girls everywhere will be using this buzzword this season:

gossamer

How to say it: GAH-suh-mer

What it means: very light or delicate

Where it comes from: *Gossamer* comes from two English words: *goose* and *summer*.

One way to use it: "Sonya spent a lazy afternoon looking for animal shapes in the gossamer clouds."



The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? Answer is on page 42.

Wake Up!



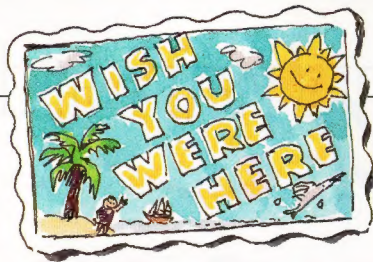
It took Dallas Friday 14 tries to learn to throw a Tootsie Roll. Sound simple? Not when "throwing a Tootsie Roll" means doing a high-flying, roll-in-the-air wakeboarding trick!

In wakeboarding, water-skiers use a short, wide board to do skateboard-type tricks behind a speeding boat. At age 14, Dallas is already one of the country's top wakeboarders. Last summer, the Florida girl finished second in women's wakeboarding at the X Games, the "Olympics" for extreme sports. She was the event's youngest athlete!

Dallas Friday—or Houston Thursday, as her friends call her—switched from gymnastics to wakeboarding at age 12. "My brother showed me how to get up on the board, and I caught on pretty fast," says Dallas. What does she love about the sport? "I can hear the crowds cheering when I'm riding," Dallas says. "It pumps me up to do the best I can!"

Dallas concentrates as she grabs the board and jumps the wake.





Readers share their wackiest vacation stories.



"My family had lunch at a beach. A seagull came and took my cousin's sandwich right out of her hand!"

Jackie Chenail
Age 11, Connecticut

"On our way to Canada, we got stuck in a three-hour traffic jam. None of the cars could move. Everyone was talking and unpacking—even sunbathing!"



Sieglinde Hindrichs
Age 12, Pennsylvania



"My friend and I were fishing from a dock with a pool net. We caught a fish! When I tried to pull it up, the fish went flying, and I fell in!"

Allison Thornton
Age 12, South Dakota

"We opened the door to our hotel room and found someone there. The clerk had given us the wrong key!"

Kirsten Dalman
Age 9, Michigan



Money

Want to earn cash and have fun, too? Try these ideas!



Kid Camp



Left to right: Molly, Aimee, and Sarah

Last summer, Sarah Henningsen of California knew she wanted to spend time with little kids. But at age ten, she felt she was too young to babysit solo. So Sarah, her sister Molly, and their friend Aimee opened Sunshine Summer Camp. Each day for a week, 11 neighborhood kids came for an afternoon of crafts, snacks, and games. "Mom was close by in case anything went wrong," Sarah says. "But everything went great!" By the end of the week, the girls had made more than \$100—plus tips!



Thinking about hosting a day camp? "Don't try games where very young kids have to take turns and only one person wins," warns Sarah. "Group games work better!"

Pop Stop



Feeling thirsty? How about a strawberry shortcake? That's just one of Caitlin Rezac's soda flavors. Last year, Caitlin opened Soda Girl, a portable soda business. Wheeling a cart around her Colorado neighborhood, Caitlin sold fun, fruity drinks at \$1 a cup. She made about \$300!

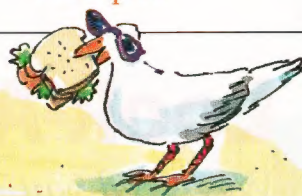
Getting her fizz biz started wasn't easy. First, Caitlin made a plan of everything she'd need. Her parents helped her build the cart, complete with bottles of flavored syrup and carbonated water. Because Caitlin mixed the sodas herself, she even had to get a health permit! "It was a lot of work," says Caitlin, now 12. "But it was definitely worth it to me!"



Want to run a soda stand? Pack cans of chilled soda and ice in a cooler on wheels. Make a sign listing the kinds of soda and prices. Yard sales and parades are great places to sell soda—but be safe! Get a parent's permission and go with a friend.

Sparkle Style

Cool jewels add a dash of flash!



Directions: Use small rhinestones and jewel glue (both available at craft stores) to dress up a bandanna or pair of sunglasses. Glue rhinestones and let dry completely.



Bright Bandanna
That's a wrap!



Shiny Shades
Instant glamour!



True Story

Summer meets someone she can look up to.



Dear American Girl,

Lisa Leslie—
my hero!

I'm 13 years old—and six feet, three inches tall. I've always loved basketball, and last summer, a dream of mine came true!

My friend took me to see the Los Angeles Sparks play. My friend knows the assistant coach, and after the game, the coach invited me back to the locker room. I talked to four players, including Lisa Leslie! It turns out that Lisa and I wear the same hard-to-find shoe size: 14. She asked me if I wanted some of her old shoes, and then she pulled out two pairs! Sometimes I wear them around the house, just to feel special.

When I was younger, I used to get teased about my height. It was hard for me to fit into school chairs and to wear costumes for school plays. Now I feel great about being tall! Someday, I hope to play in the WNBA so that girls can look up to me, too.

Sincerely,

Summer Miller-walfish
Age 13, New Mexico



AG

POLL



Your answers:

In our March/April 2001 issue, we asked you whether you'd rather have your birthday party be a surprise or plan it yourself. Here's how you voted:



Stephanie London, 10, of New York says, "I want to make my party fit my style!"



Next question:

Now tell us your preference in presents. Would you rather get one great big gift—or lots of little ones?



Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your name, address, and birth date.

Hot Diggity Dog!



Kelsey Griswold, age 8, of Oklahoma *mustard* up the courage to enter the Oscar Mayer jingle contest—and won! Along with winning a \$20,000 college scholarship, Kelsey got to perform her song with singer Monica at Hollywood's Universal Studios. Go to www.americangirl.com and hear Kelsey's hot dog ditty!

July is National Hot Dog Month!

Help Wanted!

Do you live in an unusual house? Do you call a geodome home? Do you stay afloat on a houseboat? Maybe you live underground! Tell us about your unusual habitat. Send your answer to the address on page 2. Please include your name, address, and birth date.



Cut out your answer and mail it to us.



Additional photo credits on page 2.

Look-Alike Contest

We asked you if you looked like someone famous. Check out these twin grins!



Brittany Levin-Clarke
Age 9, California



Hallie Kate Eisenberg



Jame Casey
Age 10, Ohio



Briane Metzgar
Age 12, Minnesota



Drew Barrymore



Minolta Araya
Age 12, North Carolina



Nicole Stack
Age 13, Michigan



Eliza Thornberry



Image courtesy of Nickelodeon



Allison McCarty
Age 11, Indiana



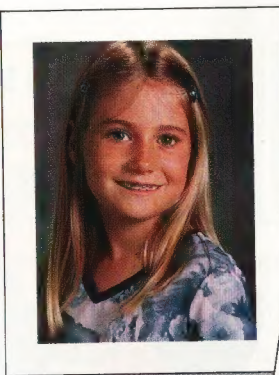
Lindsay Lohan



Janet Jackson



Gwyneth Paltrow



Jenna Anderson
Age 10, California



Maureen McCormick
"Marcia Brady"



Jennifer Pentz
Age 12, North Carolina



Cameron Diaz



Morgan Reed
Age 9, Maryland



Mara Wilson



Elizabeth Hebel
Age 11, Florida



Jennifer Aniston

Photo courtesy of ABC/Nick At Nite



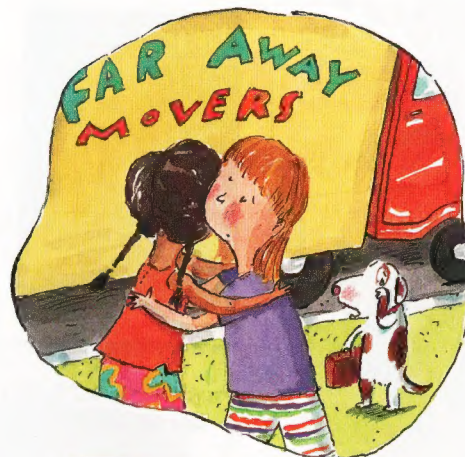
New Contest

Invent an ice cream sundae! What flavors of ice cream are in it? Do you top it all off with whipped cream and a cherry, or do you prefer rainbow sprinkles? Is there a super-special secret ingredient? Scoop up a chilly concoction, name it—and, of course, taste it to make sure it's good! Send your recipe to the address on page 2. Winners will appear in our November/December 2001 issue.



Heart to Heart Moving

How can you look on the bright side of moving? What can you do for a friend who is moving away?



Before you move, send a letter to the new class

you'll be in. Include a photo of yourself, and tell them what you like to do. Then the kids will know a little about you before you get there, and it might make your first day a bit easier.



Lauren Digging
Age 12, New Jersey



I was really close friends with my next-door neighbor, Hope. The day I moved,

we were both crying, but I felt better when her mom told me, "Moving is like the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one."

Brittany Vernola
Age 12, New York



I moved last year, and moving is hard. It helps to

try to make new friends—be friendly and don't hold back. But don't talk about your old home too much, because it gets annoying.

Erica Fox
Age 10, Colorado



A good gift for a friend who's moving is an address

book with all of her friends' addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers in it. You can also make a video of her friends wishing her good luck in her new home and giving her cheerful messages. Give it to your friend when she leaves, and tell her to watch it soon after she gets in her new house.

Shannon Denner
Age 14, Ohio



When my friend found out she had to move, we

knew we would miss each other. I gave her a phone card so she could call me anytime she wanted.

Hannah Molefsky
Age 13, Texas



We had a surprise going-away party for a friend who

was moving. The theme was: we'll be blue without you! We had blue streamers and blue balloons, everyone wore blue clothes, and we served blue food like blueberry Jell-O and blue M&M's.

My friend was really surprised and she liked it a lot!



Rachel Tennant
Age 12, California



I moved away from my best friend. She made me a "moving care package." It was packed with snacks, travel games, stationery, and a photo of her. Each thing had a sweet note attached. It made me so happy.



Maddison Jensen
Age 8, Idaho



I've moved a lot, from Canada to Ireland to California. A bright side of moving is that you can still write to your old friends and go visit them. I feel like I have friends all over the world!

Elizabeth Ng
Age 11, California



Before you move, get together with your friend and make two scrapbooks of your friendship memories: one for you and one for your friend. It will make you really happy to look through it later.

Joanna Turkiewicz
Age 8, California

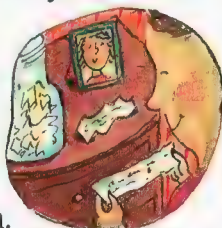


When I moved, I gave my friends postcards with my new address written on them. My friends wrote right away, and I had mail at my new house when I got there!

Abby Brown
Age 12, Colorado



My friend Holly is moving soon. We cut paper into strips and wrote funny things we've done together on each strip. Then we folded the strips and put them in a jar for each of us. When we get lonely, we can pull one out and start laughing again.



Samantha Relf
Age 12, Iowa



To feel better about moving, think about how you want your new room to be organized. When you're there, decorate your room festively to liven things up. And if you still feel sad, it's O.K. to cry.

Katie Bailey
Age 11, Texas



I thought I would not fit in when I moved. But I fit in just fine. When you move, remember that you are still the same person; it's only your surroundings that change.

Katie Pross
Age 11, Florida

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Embarrassment. Tell us about a time you were totally embarrassed. What happened? What would you do now if it happened again? How can you stay cool instead of turning beet red?

**Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to: AmericanGirl
8400 Fairway Place, Middleton, WI 53562. While we can print only about a dozen letters in each Heart to Heart, we read and learn from every one!**

Deadline: August 7, 2001.

Some answers will appear in the January/February 2002 issue. ★



READ-YOUR-ROOM QUIZ

by Marissa Moss



(and fortune-teller
Madame Amelia!)

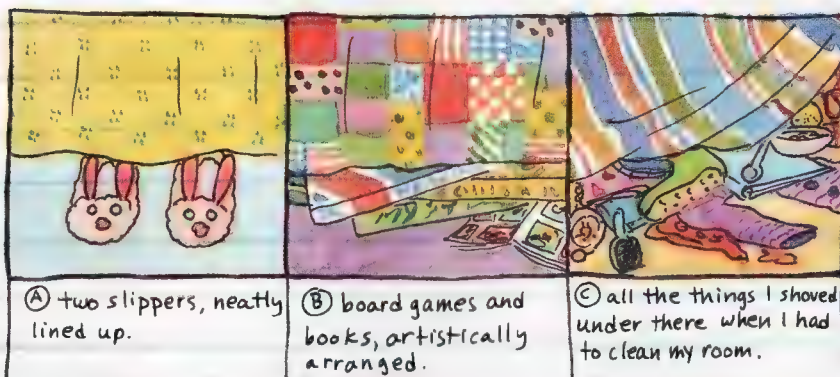
Some people read tea leaves to predict the future. I think you can learn a lot more by looking at your bedroom. Just answer the following questions.

Other clues
to
Room Reading:
↓



↑
If the trash
can has a lot
of tissues in
it, you have
a waaaad
cold.

① Under my bed are:



Ⓐ two slippers, neatly lined up.

Ⓑ board games and books, artistically arranged.

Ⓒ all the things I shoved under there when I had to clean my room.

② In the closet are:



Ⓐ clothes, hung up in an orderly fashion.

Ⓑ clothes and toys, kind of organized.

Ⓒ I'm not sure what's in there — you could find anything!

③ On my desk are:



Ⓐ pens, pencils, a lamp, and plenty of space to work.

Ⓑ papers, pens, tissues, a lamp, and boxes of paper clips, rubber bands, and thumbtacks.

Ⓒ I can't even see the top of my desk, there's so much stuff on it!



↑
It's simpler than
figuring out what
those lines in your
palm mean.

Help!



↑
If the water
in the fish bowl
is green, have
pity on your
poor fish and
**CHANGE THE
WATER!**



↑
If your colored
pencils have
bite marks on
them, then you
have a taste
for art!



↑
If there are
lots of spider
webs, you
don't have
to worry about
flies, but you'd
better dust!

EXTRA CREDIT QUESTIONS:



My favorite decoration is:



④ my collection of glass animals, neatly dusted.



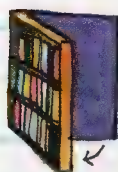
⑤ the glow-in-the-dark stars on my ceiling.



My dream room would have:



① a skylight (with a telescope, of course!)

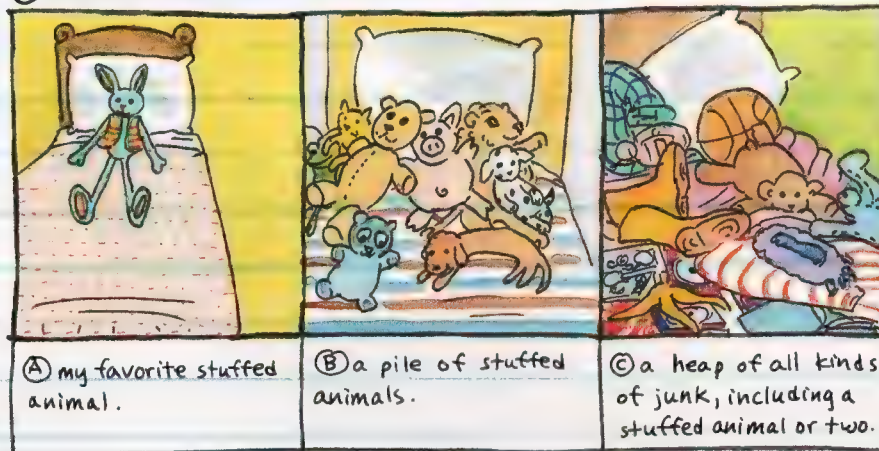


② a secret compartment behind the bookcase.



③ my own vending machine full of junk food.

④ On my bed is:



① my favorite stuffed animal.

② a pile of stuffed animals.

③ a heap of all kinds of junk, including a stuffed animal or two.



⑥ a lava lamp, if I can ever find it!

⑤ On the wall is:



① a bulletin board.

② a poster or two.

③ such a spread of posters I'm not sure what color the wall is.

The oldest thing in my room is:



① the teddy bear I had when I was a baby.



② the handprint I made in kindergarten.



③ the stale Cheerios under the bed.

If you chose mostly A's, you're incredibly neat and organized. I predict you'll come clean my room.

If you chose mostly B's, your room is cozy and inviting. I predict you'll always be able to find what you need when you need it.

If you chose mostly C's, your room is a construction site. I predict only you will know how to get from the bed to the door without stubbing your toe on the stuff on the floor.★

And now I'll try reading desk drawers.



What's in them is a whole separate world!

Get more fortune-telling fun in the book **Madame Amelia Tells All** —and check out the other Amelia surprises at www.american girl.com.



COOLADA

BERRY BLAZES

ALOHA SIPPER

PINEAPPLE PUNCH

PINEAPPLE EXPLOSION

TROPICAL TWISTERS

Beat the heat with these icy pineapple pleasers!

COOLADA



Stay cool all summer long!

In a blender, combine 1 cup canned diced pineapple, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cream of coconut, and 1 cup ice cubes. Ask an adult to blend well.



PINEAPPLE EXPLOSION



It's a pineapple delight!

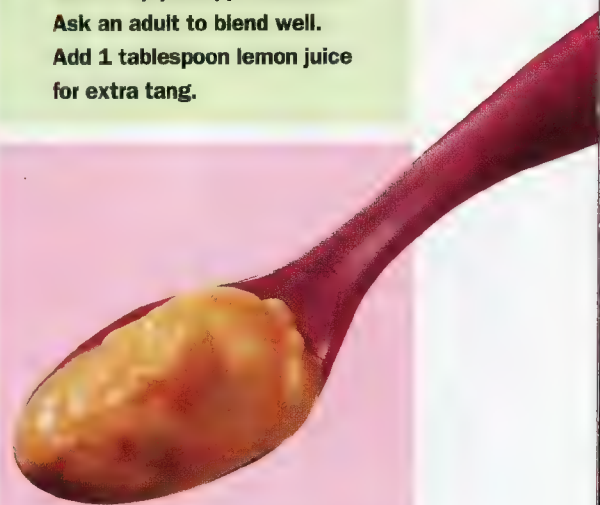
In a blender, combine 1 cup canned diced pineapple and 1 cup pineapple sherbet. Ask an adult to blend well. Add 1 tablespoon lemon juice for extra tang.



ALOHA SIPPER



Like a trip to the tropics! In a blender, combine 1 cup canned diced pineapple, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, and 1 cup orange sherbet. Ask an adult to blend well. For an extra tropical twist, add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cream of coconut.



PINEAPPLE PUNCH

Party time! In a pitcher, mix together 5 cups pineapple juice and 5 cups lemon-lime soda. Serve over ice.



BERRY BREEZER



It's *berry* smooth! Scoop 1 cup strawberry sorbet and 1 cup pineapple sherbet into a blender. Ask an adult to blend until smooth. Stir in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lemon-lime soda, and enjoy. ★

Rachel

by Teresa Cotsirilos

Natalie and the new girl have a lot in common, but will Natalie's best friend keep them apart?

Contest Winners

Last November, we invited you to write a short story using this sentence. "As soon as she sent the letter, she wished she hadn't."

More than 1,200 of you did! From all of your entries, we picked these two winning stories.

Hey, Nat," Karen whispered, "Look!" Natalie O'Connor turned. The summer sun beat down on her as she sat by the side of the pool, swishing her legs in the cool water, trying to get the nerve to jump in. A short, dark-haired girl was shuffling in through the gate with her backpack over her shoulder and her sandals slapping the pavement loudly. When she walked into the changing rooms, Nat caught a glimpse of her face. Her eyes were dark and almond shaped, her face round.

"Yeah? What about her?" Nat asked.

"She's so weird!" said Karen.

Nat nodded. She didn't really know what to say to that. They didn't even know this girl.

"Hi, you guys!" Nat and Karen turned. The dark-haired girl was in her swimsuit now. "I'm Rachel Ahn—I just moved here! I hope this town has a swim team—I love to swim, don't you?"

"Um, yeah," said Nat.

"Can I swim with you guys?" Rachel asked.

"Maybe we can play Marco Polo or something."

"Actually, we were just leaving," Karen said quickly, swimming toward the ladder. The happy smile on Rachel's face faded. She eyed Nat; Nat hoped Rachel didn't realize that it was strange for two people to leave the pool when one of them hadn't even swum yet.

"Oh," Rachel said sadly. "Maybe tomorrow."

"Maybe." Karen gave Rachel a quick, fake smile and lifted herself out of the water, slipping on her sandals and wrapping a towel around her waist as Nat did the same. They hurried away.

"We weren't done swimming, Karen," Nat said uncomfortably as they started the walk home.

"Sorry we had to go, but that Chinese kid annoyed me so much!" Karen complained. "She wouldn't stop talking, and she looked so strange!"

Nat said nothing.

Soon they reached Nat's house. The two friends waved good-bye. "How was it?" asked Mrs. O'Connor from her office, where she was busy typing up a report for her boss.

"It was O.K. We didn't swim for very long." Nat kicked off her shoes, walked to the piano, and sat on the wooden bench. Her fingers began to skirt up and down the keys, climbing up to the sharps and flats and dipping down to the white ones. It cleared her head to play the piano.

Why did Karen dislike Rachel so much when she'd seemed so friendly? Rachel did

look different, with her small eyes and shiny black hair, but that didn't mean Rachel *was* different.



The next day, Nat and Karen went to the park. They swung as high as they could on the tire swing, and started a basketball game with three boys from school. Nat hadn't thought again about what had happened at the pool yesterday.

"Hey, can I play?" Nat turned around and felt her stomach drop. There was Rachel with a huge smile on her face. She heard Karen groan.

"It's that Chinese kid from the pool I told you about," Karen said to the boys, a little too loudly.

Rachel's smile was swept off her face. "I'm not Chinese," she began. "My last name's Ahn—that's Korean!"

"Whatever," said Denis. "Same thing, isn't it?"

"No, it isn't!" exclaimed Rachel. "Korea's an entirely different country!"

"Who cares?" remarked Phillip. "Koreans and Chinese are no different, because they all have eyes like this!" He pulled back on the corners of his

eyelids so that his eyes looked narrow and slanted.

The other boys hooted with laughter, falling over and clutching their sides. Karen copied Phillip.

“Ooooooooooh! I’m Chinese!” she shrieked.

“I’m not Chinese!” bellowed Rachel, close to tears. “And my eyes don’t look like that!”

But everyone was doing it now. “Come on Nat,” whispered Karen, jabbing her in the ribs.

Nat hesitated. Her stomach was flip-flopping like a beached fish. She started to reach for her eyelids, but stopped. *This is so incredibly wrong!* she thought to herself. She opened her mouth to say something, but no words came out. If she criticized what her friends were doing, maybe they’d start teasing her, too. Before Nat had a chance to say anything at all, Rachel took off. Burying her face in her hands, Rachel ran from the park and down the street.



When Nat got home, she had to play the piano for hours to clear her head this time. The images from the basketball court kept flashing in her mind—Karen laughing at Rachel, Rachel trying to stand up for herself, then Rachel running away. Why hadn’t she stood up for Rachel? Maybe she should dislike Rachel if everyone else did, too. But as hard as she tried, Nat couldn’t find anything not to like about Rachel.

“Hey, kiddo! Come in here, will you?” Mrs. O’Connor yelled from her office.

Nat smiled and walked into the office, stepping around the piles of papers. Mrs. O’Connor turned around. “Natalie, there’s something important coming up next week,” she said seriously.

Nat smiled even wider. “I know,” she grinned. “My birthday!”

Mrs. O’Connor stopped being serious. “Right!” she said. “Now what do you want to do? How

about we go to the pool and then come back here for chocolate cake?”

“Sounds good. I think I’ll invite Karen, Tiffany, Madison... the usual.”

“And Rachel, that new girl? She seems nice.”

“She’s O.K. But I don’t really want to invite her.”

“Oh, come on, Natalie. She probably really needs a friend.”

“I don’t want to invite her!” Nat thundered. What would Karen think of Rachel coming to the party?

“O.K., O.K.!” said Mrs. O’Connor, taken aback. “I’m sorry I brought it up. But think about it. Why don’t you go make the invitations?”

Nat went up to her room, wrote out invitations, addressed them, and put on her sandals, ready to walk to the post office. But as she left her room, something compelled her to look back. A blank sheet of paper was sitting on her desk, and before she could stop herself, Nat had scribbled out another invitation and addressed it to Rachel Ahn.



She walked quickly to the mailbox. As soon as she sent the letter, she wished she hadn't. But it was too late. Rachel had been invited.

Rachel arrived at Nat's party late, so everyone else was already there. Some of the other guests exchanged glances when they saw her.

"Hi! Happy birthday!" said Rachel cheerfully.

Nat didn't say anything. She was regretting more and more that she had even thought of inviting her. Nat just wanted Rachel to stay far away from her.

"What's she doing here?" Karen hissed at Nat.

"My mom made me invite her," Nat quickly said. Rachel looked as if she'd overheard.

"Come on!" cried Mrs. O'Connor. "To the pool!"

No one teased Rachel at the pool—they just ignored her. It wasn't as if Rachel seemed to mind, either—she hadn't been lying when she said she loved to swim. Nat avoided Karen as much as she could, too. After an hour of swimming, they all headed back to Nat's house. They gobbled up the birthday cake, and before Nat knew it, all her guests had left. Except Rachel.

"My mom must be running late," Rachel said, worried. "I hope you don't mind if I stay here a little bit longer."

"Of course not," said Mrs. O'Connor. Nat bit her lip hard—she wanted Rachel to leave *now*.

Rachel looked at the piano. "It's beautiful."

"Yeah," agreed Nat. "Do you play?"

"Oh, a little. Would you mind if I practiced?"

"Nope."

Nat watched Rachel carefully sit down at the piano, place her hands on the keys, and begin to play. The music glided from her fingers, soft and elegant as the piece progressed. Rachel played beautifully, and when she finished, Nat was left

with her jaw hanging. The room was silent.

"That was... great!"

Rachel grinned. "Thanks. It's a pretty piece, isn't it? Bach wrote it—I love his music!"

"Me, too. He wrote one of my favorites." Nat hurried over and began to play the first couple of measures of "Little Prelude in F."

There was a silence as Nat struggled with herself. "Sorry about..." she began, but not sure which event she was apologizing for.

"I got it where I used to live, too," Rachel said softly. "Some people are so racist—just because I'm not white doesn't mean I'm an alien!"

"I should have stood up for you at the basketball court. It was really wrong of me," said Nat.

"I wish you had." Rachel paused, and then she began to play part of "Heart and Soul." Nat giggled and joined in, and soon they were laughing and playing together.

"Hey! What's going on in there?" shouted Mrs. O'Connor from the kitchen.

"Nothing!" chorused the two girls, and they played on.

And on.

And on. ★



Meet the Author

Teresa Cottrill



My younger brother, Joe, and I both like to write. We often read our writing to each other for criticism or ideas. At least I always know if a ten-year-old boy will like my story!

Teresa, age 13, lives in California.



“But I do not want people to call me a fool, and if my head stays stuffed with straw instead of brains, how am I ever to know anything?”

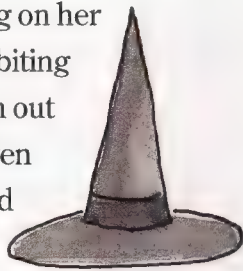
Erin stared into Kim the Scarecrow’s expectant face. Everyone was waiting. What was her next line?

“Looks like someone needs to spend a little more time memorizing her lines!” a voice from offstage sneered.



“We don’t need your comments, Kristy!” said Mrs. Todd, the director of Summer Drama Camp. “Time’s up, anyway. I’ll see you all on Monday. And Erin, do work on those lines.”

Eleven-year-old Erin frowned. *Kristy’s every bit as mean as the witch she plays, she thought. And all because I got the part of Dorothy and not her!* Every time Erin forgot her lines, spoke at the wrong time, or even took too long putting on her costume, Kristy was there with a biting remark. She was taking all the fun out of their play, *The Wizard of Oz*. Even Kim, Kristy’s best friend, was tired of the rude interruptions.



“I’ll show her!” Erin said to herself as she headed home. She kicked a pinecone and watched it skid across the street. “Just wait until next Saturday night! I’m going to be the best Dor—”

Woof!

“What was that?” Erin stood still for a moment before she turned the corner, following the sound. “Hi there!” Erin stooped and picked up a scraggly black puppy sitting on the side of the road. She stroked its fur gently.

“Where did you come from?” Erin looked for a collar, but the puppy didn’t have one. She took



one look into his black eyes half hidden by fur and hurried the rest of the way home with him in her arms.

“Mom!” Erin called when she got to her house. “Please, please can I keep him?” She slammed the door shut as she spoke.

“Keep what? Calm down and tell me—oh,” Erin’s mom appeared at the top of the stairs. “Erin, we already have a cat.”

“We’ve had Socks forever! Isn’t it time we got a dog? And this one needs a home!”

Erin’s mother sighed. “We’ll have to post some flyers first to make sure.”

“Of course,” Erin agreed. *But I’m sure he’s a stray*, she added silently. She grabbed a stack of papers and markers and set to work. Erin and her mother tacked the flyers up around town that night.

“Mom says if no one comes for you in two weeks, you get to stay, Blackie,” Erin told the puppy. Blackie barked an enthusiastic response and wagged his short tail with surprising energy for such a little dog. Erin laughed and took Blackie for a run in the park.

That weekend, Erin took Blackie for lots of walks. She slipped food scraps under the table at meals, and each night Blackie slept at the foot of Erin’s bed. The weekend passed, and no one claimed the puppy.



The next Monday at Drama Camp, Kristy was unusually quiet. “Is there anything wrong, Kristy?” Mrs. Todd asked.

“What? Oh, I’m just worried about Sam,” she replied.

“Sam?”

“Sam’s my puppy. He got out of our backyard last week and hasn’t come back.”

No. It couldn’t be Blackie, Erin thought. But during rehearsal, she couldn’t help but think that her new puppy might be Kristy’s lost pet. So what if he is? Why should I be nice to her after all she’s done to me? Erin thought angrily. But how would I feel if it was Socks that was lost and I didn’t know where she was?

Kristy left early, and when rehearsal was over, Erin grabbed a pencil and a piece of paper and scribbled a note:

Dear Kristy,
I think I might
have found Sam.
You can come over
today to see him.
Sincerely,
Erin



Erin folded the note and placed it in an envelope. She glanced up and saw Kim putting on her jacket.

“Hey, Kim! Are you going over to Kristy’s house today?” Erin called.

“Yeah. Why?” Kim asked.

“Could you give this to her for me?”

“Sure.” Kim took the envelope and ran to her mother’s car. Erin watched Kim’s mother drive away. As soon as she sent the letter, she wished she hadn’t. *I don’t want to give Blackie up! I’ve wanted my own puppy forever!* she thought. With her head down and her hands jammed in her pockets, Erin slowly walked home.

That afternoon, Erin didn't take Blackie to the park like she usually did. Instead, she picked up a book and tried to read as she waited. But every time the phone rang or the clock struck the hour, Erin imagined the doorbell chiming and Kristy's glaring face in the doorway.

After a couple of hours, Erin looked out her window and saw a girl climbing the porch steps. The doorbell rang, and Erin took a deep breath and went to open the door.

"Um, hi. I got your letter," Kristy stammered. She looked inside Erin's house. "Sam!"

Erin turned and saw the black puppy dashing toward them. He sprang into Kristy's waiting arms.

"Thank you so much for finding him!" Kristy cried.

Erin stared wistfully at the puppy licking Kristy's face.

"Would you like to come over tomorrow and play with Sam?" Kristy asked hesitantly. "We could practice our lines, too, if you want."

Erin grinned. "Well, I do need to spend a little more time memorizing my lines." Erin laughed. "See you tomorrow then."

Kristy laughed, too. As she was walking away, she turned around and called, "Hey, maybe Sam could be in the play! You and Sam would make the best Dorothy and Toto ever!" ★



Meet the Author

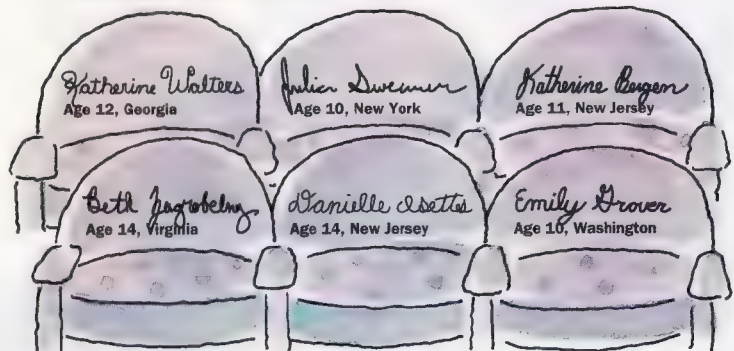
Julia Schuchard



I love writing about animals, especially cats. In fact, Blackie started out as a cat in this story, but after I decided to use *The Wizard of Oz* as the play in the story, Blackie just had to be a dog!

Julia, age 14, lives in Georgia.

Honorable mentions go to:



Want a chance to have your story published?

It's time for another story contest! Here are the rules:

1. In your story, these three things must appear: an open diary, a newspaper with an article clipped out, and a sink of dirty dishes.

Give your story a spring setting. Please don't send

us stories about any of the characters in *The American Girls Collection*, *Amelia*, or *Harry Potter*.

2. Include your name, address, phone number, and birth date on your

story. A parent must sign your story and state that you made it up yourself.

3. Your story should be no longer than eight handwritten pages or three typed pages.

4. Mail your story by August 15, 2001, to the address on page 2. The winners will appear in the March/April 2002 issue.



Good Idea!

Star in a backyard play.

Sketch a self-portrait.

Plan a theme party.

Design your own greeting cards.

Write your life story.

Invent a TV show.

Make up a new dance routine.

Create a board game.

Dream up a new business.

Host a summer carnival.

Write a poem.

Draw a comic strip.

Make a movie.

Want to write a short story? Make a great movie? Paint a masterpiece? Read on for ways to **spark** your **creativity**. Try all the tips or just a few—how you use them is up to you!

Start
with
your

heart.

Think about what you **love** and what you **hate**. A poem about your passion for fashion—or how liver makes you quiver—could be equally inspired!

Fill an
**idea
bank.**

Author J.K. Rowling keeps a file of funny names to use for characters. Start your own idea bank! Collect funny names, good titles, even cool colors you love. Keep 'em in a shoebox for instant inspiration.

Learn something

Need a topic? Try a subject that you don't know anything about. Do you want to speak French or learn more about the stars? Dig in! You might uncover a new hobby—and a gold mine of ideas!

NEW!

See the **possibilities.**

Sure, a circle can be a smiley face, but what else can it be? A Ferris wheel for ants? A bird's-eye view of a birthday cake? See how many silly things you can make out of these circles. Then try a new spin on something you want to do!

Turn the page for more ways to get your brain bubbling!

Be a sponge.

Soak up everything around you. Write down sights, smells, tastes, and sounds. Capture a conversation on paper. Look for things you've never noticed in your neighborhood. You may find a great idea right under your nose!

Get a

new

point of

view.

Great ideas can come to you while you're hanging from the monkey bars, lying under the stars, or even riding a roller coaster. Find out what a new view can do for you!

Move it!

Need a notion? Get in motion! Hop on a pogo stick. Dance the jitterbug.

Look

in books.

Go to the library, pick a book at random, and leaf through it for inspiration.

Or open a dictionary and pick a word halfway down the page. Would it make a good name for a new game?

Look for funny names in a phone

book. Maybe they could be the main characters in a play, or subjects for a drawing. What would Mr. and Mrs. Pickles look like, anyway?

Break

your

routine.

Sleep with your head at the foot of your bed (outside the covers, of course!). Brush your teeth with the opposite hand. Try on shoes that don't match. Shake up old habits, and wake up your brain!



Play

What if?"

What if the sky were red?

What if dogs could fly?

What if flowers could talk?

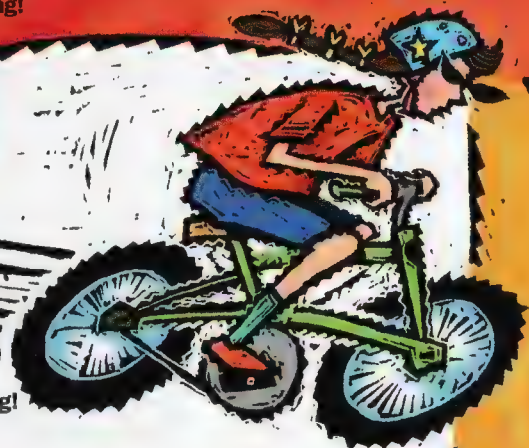
Forget how you're "supposed" to do it. What if you filmed everyone in your movie sideways? What if you made greeting cards that people could eat? Keep your mind open, and see what pops in!

The end



Work backward

Tackle your project from finish to start: think of the title first! Play with Magnetic Poetry words or randomly pick words from a newspaper. Choose a combo you like, and get going!



Cannonball into a swimming pool. Get your body moving, and your brain will soon get grooving!

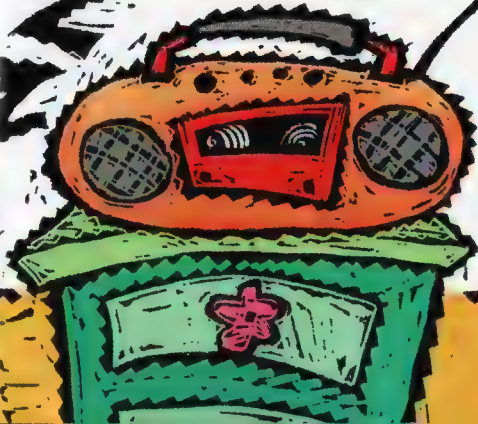
"Hey, Lucy!"



Imagine what someone else would do in your shoes. What kind of moneymaker would Lucille Ball think up? The Queen of England? The Powerpuff Girls? Look at your idea through someone else's eyes—you may find a whole new angle!

Catch some ZZZZ's.

If you're writing a short story, try putting a notebook or tape recorder by your bed. Before you go to sleep, think a little about your story. In the morning, record any ideas you've dreamed up!



Check out the "To Do Today" ideas at www.americangirl.com

Invent an ice cream sundae! See our contests on page 7.

Solve the puzzles in the "Brain Benders" book.

Dive in!

Enter our short-story contest on page 21. ★



Summer Night Magic

Star Light, Star Bright,
First Star I see Tonight,

I Wish I may,
I wish I might,

Have a Glowing Summer
Night!



Glow Catch

Get your pals together and play a glowing game. Pick a catcher. Give everyone except the catcher a glow stick. Everyone but the catcher should form two lines, one on either side of the yard. The catcher stands in the middle and calls, "Star light, star bright, how many stars are out tonight?" The players call back, "More than you can catch!" and make a dash for the other side of the yard. Anyone tagged by the catcher loses her glow stick and joins the catcher in the middle. The last player with a glow stick wins.



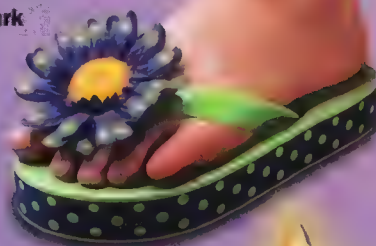
Glowing Pooch

Treat your dog to a glow-in-the-dark or flashing collar (available at pet stores).



Glow Toes

Decorate a pair of flip-flops with glow-in-the-dark fabric paint.



You Glow, Girl!

Wear glow-in-the-dark bracelets, butterfly clips, and chokers (available at party stores and accessories stores).



GLOW CRAZY

How Low Can You Glow?

Wrap a broomstick or a wooden dowel in glow-in-the-dark tape so it has a candy-cane stripe. Turn on some tropical music and limbo!



Ready, Set, Glow!

Think of a game you enjoy during the day, and figure out a way to play it at night. Maybe play volleyball with a glowing inflatable ball or add reflective tape to your soccer ball. Anything is possible!



Glow Toss

Grab a partner and stand arms-length apart. Toss a glow stick to her. If she catches it, you both take one step backward. She tosses the stick to you. Keep going until someone drops it. Then play again!



Star Struck

Play celebrity freeze tag with a flashlight. Yell out a star's name before you are tagged by the light. You can use a name only once. If the light hits you before you call out a name, you're out!



Star

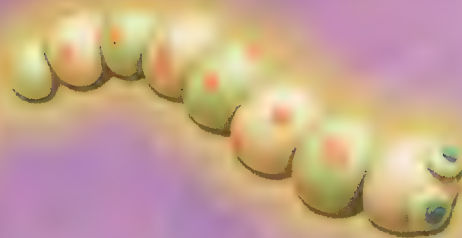
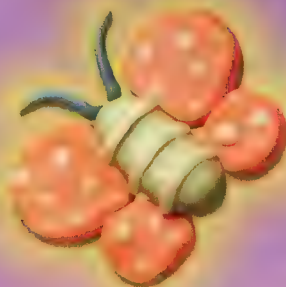
Have one person be **Star** and hold a glow-in-the-dark ball. **Star** throws the ball in the air while yelling out a player's name (the new **Star**). The new **Star** must get the ball while all other players run away. As soon as the ball is caught, the new **Star** yells "**star!**" and all players must freeze. **Star** takes 3 gigantic steps toward any player and gently throws the ball to tag her. If she tags the player, then that person becomes **Star**. If she misses, then she is still **Star**.

Starry Ni

NIGHT SCULPTOR



Create a masterpiece with glow-in-the-dark Sculpey. Ask an adult to help you bake it following directions on the package. If you are sculpting with friends, you could have a glow-in-the-dark art gallery!





Night Write

Create a journal that you use only at night. Use glow-in-the-dark paint pens to decorate the cover of the journal. Add glitter stickers for a starry sparkle. Write in your journal with a gel pen.

ght

Star Search

Have a nighttime treasure hunt. Hide glow sticks in your yard, and have your friends find them.

Hide and Glow Seek!

Attach reflective tape (available at hardware stores) to your clothing. Hide as usual. The seeker looks for players with a flashlight. When the light hits your reflectors, you're out!

Fluorescent Stars

Paint colored T-shirts with glow-in-the-dark fabric paint. Decorate with stars and other galactic shapes. Let dry.

Meteor Shower

Charge up glow-in-the-dark stars under a light. Throw the stars onto the grass. Have friends try to gather as many as they can before the stars lose their glow. The winner is the one with the most stars.



Decorate your yard with white outside lights in fun-shaped lights.

Shine



N

Flashlight Follies

Have everyone sit in a circle in the dark. The first girl shines a flashlight under her chin and begins a story with a sentence starting with the letter A, like, "After a long year at school, Breanne was finally off for summer vacation." When she finishes her part, she passes the flashlight to the next girl. That girl continues the story with a sentence starting with the letter B. Keep going around the circle following the letters of the alphabet. X is X-cluded!

Dance in the Spotlight!

Turn on space-age music (soundtrack from *Star Wars* or *Space Jam*, for example) and stand in a circle. One person stands in the center with a flashlight. The outside circle begins moving clockwise. The girl with the flashlight closes her eyes. After a few seconds, she says, "Stop," and turns on the flashlight. The person in the spotlight must dance for 15 seconds. The sillier the dancing, the better! After dancing, she trades places with the girl in the center. The fun begins again!



Glow Fetch!

Use a glow-in-the-dark rubber ball or Frisbee (available at discount stores and pet stores), and play fetch with your furry friend!

Bright Bite

Hand Wint-O-Green Life Savers to each of your friends. Take a bite, making sure the candy stays dry. As you bite, your friends will see blue sparks!



Fire Flight

Hold a flashlight close to the ground. When you see a firefly's light, wait two seconds and shine your flashlight for about a second. When the firefly flashes again, wait another two seconds and shine your light again. The firefly should come closer and closer every time, beating its gossamer wings. It might even land on your hand!

Light the Way

Using reflective tape, mark a trail in your yard for your friends to follow. Have them use flashlights to find their way. An X means "Go back, wrong way." Make arrows to mark right and left turns. A single vertical line means "Go straight." Have a prize at the end.

Where to find glow products:

Craft stores, party stores, discount stores such as Target and Wal-Mart, camping stores

Moony Tunes

Sit in a circle around a pile of lit flashlights. Sing campfire songs.

Hula Hoop-a-thon

Wrap a hula hoop in glow-in-the-dark tape. Have a marathon to see who can hula the longest!

Night Rules:

Always ask your parents before playing night games. Never play in the street. Check your yard the day before you play. Avoid holes, mud, rocks, hills, glass, etc. If you're riding your bike at night, wear reflective clothing. Make sure your bike has a headlight and a rear reflector.

If you are playing in the house, remove anything that can be broken or that can hurt you, such as a lamp or vase. Make sure nothing is eye-level and everyone is aware of any edges of tables, dressers, etc. It's best to play in clear, open spaces. ★

The Hole You

All Ears!

Never been pierced, or are you an old pro?
Find out exactly how much you know!

by Candace Purdom



1. Summer's the perfect time to pierce your ears. After all, nothing helps healing like water and sunshine!

True

False

2. Hooray! Last night Mom said you could get your ears pierced. Next time she drops you off at the mall, you can just zip in and get it done.

True

False



3. O.K.—you're ready to do it!
Um, it won't hurt, will it?

a. Not a bit

b. A little sting, and that's it

c. OWWW!



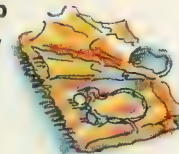
4. Whew! It's over! Your ears sparkle with shiny new earrings. *Now* what?

a. Twist and clean, twist and clean—three times a day. And don't forget the special cleanser!

b. Just scrub your ears with soap and water every time you take a shower.

Answers

1. False. If you're swimming a lot this summer, you may want to think twice before piercing your ears. Lake and sea water and chlorine can keep your ears from healing properly. You could end up with a nasty infection—and that's not pretty!



2. False. In many locations, kids under 18 must have a parent or guardian with them to give written permission. Never ask a friend to pierce your ears at home—bring Mom or Dad, and head to the mall or a doctor's office instead.



3. b. Ear piercing is quick, but it usually hurts a little. First, a technician cleans your earlobes with alcohol and marks where the holes will go. Then he or she uses a piercing gun to make a hole and place an earring all at once. Most people feel a slight pinch or sting, but the pain shouldn't last long. If your ears continue to hurt for more than a few days, see your doctor.

4. a. Newly pierced ears need lots of T.L.C.—Tender Lobe Care. Always wash your hands before touching your ears or earrings. Use a cotton ball to clean the lobes, front and back, three times a day with the kind of cleanser the technician recommends. Twist your studs two or three times a day, and ask Mom or Dad to check the backs of your ears daily for redness or swelling.



5. Yes. Unless you wear post earrings *constantly* for about five months, the holes will close up. Your ears won't look like new, though, so if you aren't sure about piercing, wait!

6. c. You could end up trading something worse—like infections or diseases. If you admire your friend's earrings, ask her where she got them, and get a matching pair.



7. a. What's the trend for ears this summer? According to people at Claire's Accessories, plenty of gold, dahling! ★

5. Whoops! Maybe getting your ears pierced wasn't such a good idea. If you leave your holes alone, they'll close up again, right?

Yes

No

6. Now that you've got pierced ears, your best friend Georgia wants to trade earrings. What do you say?

a. "Good idea!"

b. "Maybe."

c. "Sorry!"

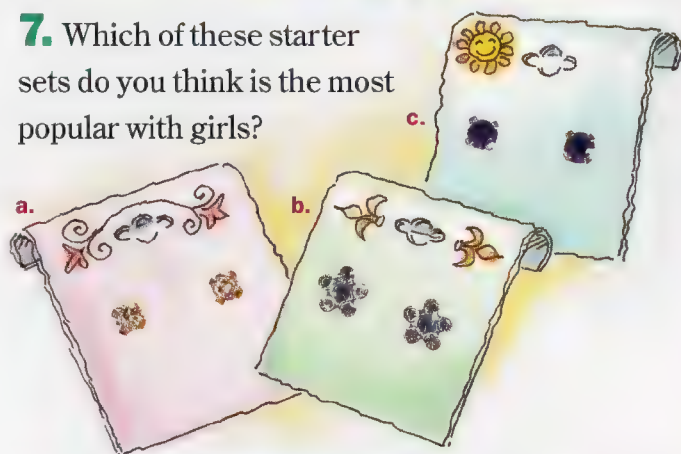


7. Which of these starter sets do you think is the most popular with girls?

a.

b.

c.



A young girl with long brown hair is smiling and holding a white and black speckled puppy. The puppy is looking towards the camera. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern.

Signs of Love

Training and
tenderness helped
one deaf dog become
part of a family.

by Andrea Leigh Ptak

Right from the start, Chelsea Robinson could tell that something was different about her puppy Lexi. The Australian shepherd just didn't respond to people the way a dog normally would. Lexi's bark was different from most dogs' barks. She didn't react to strange sounds, either. "Other dogs we'd had would run and hide when we turned the vacuum on," Chelsea remembers, "but Lexi just wanted to play with it." Concerned, Chelsea and her family took their new pet to the vet. They found out that Lexi was deaf.

When Chelsea, 12, first met Lexi, the playful pup was nothing more than a ball of fluff. Chelsea and her family were not planning to bring a new dog into their Illinois home. But while visiting a friend's farm, they walked into a pen filled with six cuddly puppies. Lexi attached herself to Chelsea and the others. "It was like Lexi knew she was coming home with us," Chelsea says. The white puppy with a few splotches of gray had found her family!

Soon, Chelsea began to notice that Lexi was different from other dogs. "Lexi wouldn't come, even when I said her name over and over," Chelsea explains. "I thought she might not know her name." Lexi was just a puppy, still getting

used to her new home. "I didn't really think anything was wrong with her," says Chelsea.

But Lexi is a smart dog—she probably would have learned her name within



Lexi at two months.



Lexi loves the whole family, including little sister Abbi.

"Lexi wouldn't come, even when I said her name over and over."



Lexi responds to Chelsea's sit command.

minutes, had she been able to hear it. The vet did several simple tests, such as clapping behind the dog's back, but Lexi never responded. Then the vet told the Robinsons that many people have deaf puppies put to sleep, because they believe deaf dogs are too difficult to raise. "I just thought that was really sad," recalls Chelsea. Instead of giving up, Chelsea and her family decided to learn all they could about deaf dogs.

Through books and Web sites, Chelsea found out that people often use American Sign Language, or ASL, to train deaf dogs. The Robinsons bought a book on ASL, and Chelsea began to teach Lexi



some signs. Chelsea also created her own signs for a few special words.

Right away, Chelsea decided on sign language names for everyone in the family. *Mom* and *Dad* were easy. Chelsea just used the ASL signs for those two words. As the sign for her three-year-old sister, Abbi, who has long curly hair, Chelsea decided to tug at her own hair. For her brother, Zac, she chose the sign for the letter Z with an added wiggle back and forth. And for herself, Chelsea chose the ASL sign for *girl*.

At first, Chelsea and Lexi worked together three or four times a day, five or ten minutes at a time. Lexi was still a puppy, so her attention span was pretty short. Chelsea rewarded Lexi for getting things right with treats, praise, and the thumbs up—Lexi's sign for *good girl*.

Lexi caught on quickly to words like *sit*, *stay*, and *no*. But some skills were hard to learn. Unless Lexi is looking at you, you can't communicate with her. Chelsea admits that training Lexi can be frustrating. "Sometimes, when she doesn't want to listen to you, she'll just look to the side," says Chelsea. "I think she has figured out that if she can't see us, she can't *hear* us."

Show and Tell Try teaching these signs to your family's Fido!



"Go Outside"

"Whenever we went outside, we just did this sign," Chelsea explains. "Soon Lexi caught on."



"Car"

When Lexi sees this sign, she knows she's supposed to go get in the car.



"Time for Bed"

Like the rest of the kids, Lexi has a bedtime!

To call Lexi when she's not in the room, Chelsea learned to stomp on the floor or tap the wall. Lexi comes when she feels the vibrations. Lexi now wears a vibrating collar. Chelsea just pushes a button on a remote, the collar vibrates, and Lexi knows she's supposed to come. When Lexi's attention wanders during a training session, Chelsea taps her on the head. "Then I take

my pointer finger and put it by her face and then bring it up to my eye," she explains. That sign tells Lexi to pay attention!

One sign quickly became a favorite with everyone in the family. Chelsea's mom taught Lexi how to wake up Chelsea and Zac!

First Mom gives the

signal—she opens and closes her fists with her hands next to her eyes and then signs a person's name. Then Lexi runs to the bedroom and jumps into bed with that person. "It's like having someone shake you out of bed," says Chelsea, who loves getting up with her pet. "Lexi just gets so excited to see you."

At first, Chelsea was upset when she learned that Lexi was deaf. "When my friends heard that Lexi was deaf," she remembers, "they'd say, 'Oh, that's so sad!'" But after a while, Lexi's deafness didn't make Chelsea sad at all. She knows that with training, Lexi can learn just



Lexi wakes Chelsea up with a kiss!

about anything. With Lexi's story as an example, Chelsea wants to show people that disabled dogs make great pets. "It's hard for them to find homes," she explains.

Chelsea and Lexi are still learning the ins and outs of standard dog obedience. When they're done, though, Chelsea would love to train Lexi in agility. Lexi will learn to run complex obstacle courses, speeding through tubes and jumping hurdles. Australian shepherds, or Aussies, are working dogs—they're bred to herd sheep and cattle. Lexi, like other Aussies, is a very active, smart dog who needs a job to do in order to be happy. Chelsea hopes agility training is the right

job for Lexi, but she knows training Lexi is the right job for her. "I used to want to be an actress," she says, "but now I want to be a deaf-dog trainer!"

For more information on deaf dogs, check out www.deafdogs.org. ★



Sweet Dreams

Once upon a time, you could actually buy candy for a penny!
Read on for some sweet stories from candy's past.

Roll Call

Tootsie Rolls, introduced in **1896**, were the first wrapped candy sold for a penny apiece. Believe it or not, you can still buy a small Tootsie Roll for one cent! The chocolaty chews

got their name from their inventor's little girl, Tootsie.



Save One for Me

Life Savers were invented in **1912** by a chocolate maker who needed a candy that wouldn't melt in the summer. Pep-O-Mint—the first Life Savers flavor—sure saved that candy maker's business! He named his sweet treat for what it looked like—a mini life preserver.

Sugar Power!

Sweet and delicious, Necco Wafers were sold starting in **1901**. Years later, when explorer Richard Byrd led one of the first expeditions to Antarctica, he toted two and a half tons of Necco Wafers on his trip as a source of quick energy!

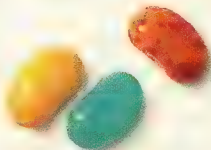


M-M-Molasses



Kids got their first taste of molasses-flavored, peanut-buttery Mary Jane candies in 1914.

Where did the candy's name come from? The maker's favorite aunt. Maybe Aunt Mary Jane knew eating these sticky taffies would keep kids' mouths shut for a long time!



Gourmet Goodies

In 1976, the eight original Jelly Belly flavors—Very Cherry, Lemon, Cream Soda, Orange, Green Apple, Root Beer, Grape, and Licorice—were designed to have true-to-life tastes. In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan loved the beans so much, he always kept some in the White House. Today Jelly Belly beans come in 40 different flavors, including Juicy Pear

and even Jalapeño! What's the most popular flavor of all? Buttered Popcorn.



This portrait of Reagan is done in Jelly Bellies!



Hot Stuff!

The spicy cinnamon flavor of Atomic Fire Balls first exploded onto sweet-shop shelves in 1954. Since the 1950s were filled with

worry about the threat of nuclear war, kids knew the word "Atomic" in this candy's name promised a high-powered taste.



Handy Candy

What's today's tastiest trend? Candy you can play with—like Candy Stampers. Just lick, then stamp away! When you're done, you can eat the whole thing. ★



The Giggle Gang



Summer Camp Code Names



Want to figure out your summer camp code name? Just find your first initial in the first column, your middle initial in the second column, and your last initial in the third column. The words you find make up your new name. Create more code names based on the first three letters of your first name, the last three letters of your last name, your nickname, or whatever else you like. Have fun finding names for your friends and family, too!



	First	Middle	Last
A	Adventurous	Archer	Aardvark
B	Bouncy	Biking	Bear
C	Cuddly	Canoeing	Camel
D	Daring	Dancing	Dalmatian
E	Energetic	Eating	Eagle
F	Funny	Flying	Frog
G	Giddy	Gardening	Giraffe
H	Hilarious	Hiking	Horse
I	Ingenious	Island	Iguana
J	Jolly	Jumping	Jaguar
K	Kissable	Kayaking	Kangaroo
L	Lively	Laughing	Lion
M	Magnificent	Moonlight	Mouse
N	Nice	Night	Nightingale
O	Outgoing	Outdoor	Owl
P	Pleasant	Painting	Panda
Q	Qualified	Quaking	Quail
R	Rambunctious	Riding	Raccoon
S	Silly	Swimming	Squirrel
T	Talkative	Tree-climbing	Tiger
U	Understanding	Underwater	Unicorn
V	Victorious	Volunteering	Viper
W	Wise	Water-skiing	Wolf
X	eXcellent	eXercising	oX
Y	Yummy	Yodeling	Yak
Z	Zippy	Zookeeping	Zebra

What happened when the mouse fell into a glass of soda? Nothing. It was a soft drink. Sharon Tan What did the puppy say to her best friend? "I lick you!"

Age 12, Texas

Charlotte Collins

Age 8, Texas

What do you call a girl who always sneezes when she has to make a decision? A-chooser!

Abby Dunk

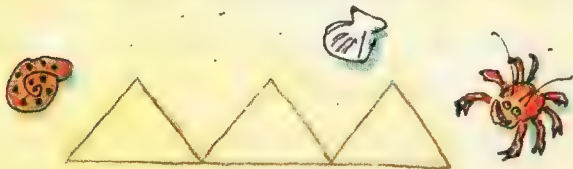
Age 11, Pennsylvania

All answers on page 42.

Sand Sketches

Help the Giggle Gang girls solve these sandy brain teasers.

1. Move three lines to turn these three triangles into four.



2. Move four lines to turn these nine squares into two.



Flip-Flop

This quick card game is a great summer boredom buster!

You need two or more people and two decks of cards.

1. From one deck, the dealer gives each player five cards, face up. She sets aside the rest of the deck.
2. Using the second deck, the dealer turns over cards one at a time.
3. When a card the dealer turns up matches a card a player has showing, the player turns that card face down.
4. The first player to turn over all five of her cards is the winner. Play quickly!

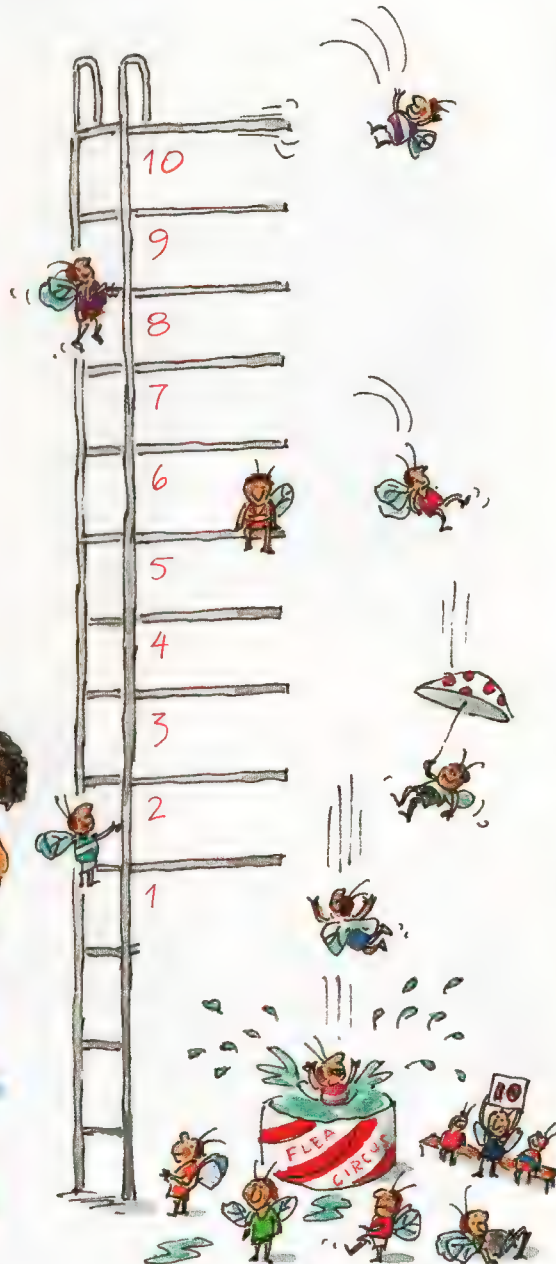


Dive In!



Play this pencil-pushing game with a friend.

Put your pencil on platform 1, and close your eyes. Keeping your eyes shut, try to draw a line into the pool. If you hit the target, try taking the plunge from the next platform. See how high you can go without missing the pool.

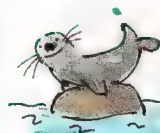


Pierced ears! Rebecca White Why wouldn't the shark eat the millionaire who fell out of the boat? He was on a diet and didn't want to eat rich food. Brionne Welsh Age 12, Pennsylvania

What do you call Frosty the Snowman in July? A puddle. Rebecca Tieman What do you get when you put corn holders into sweet corn?

Age 11, Missouri

The Giggle Gang

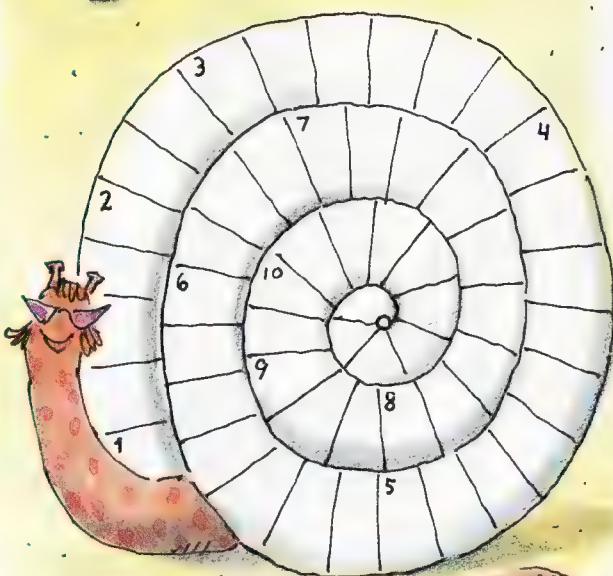


Sea Spell



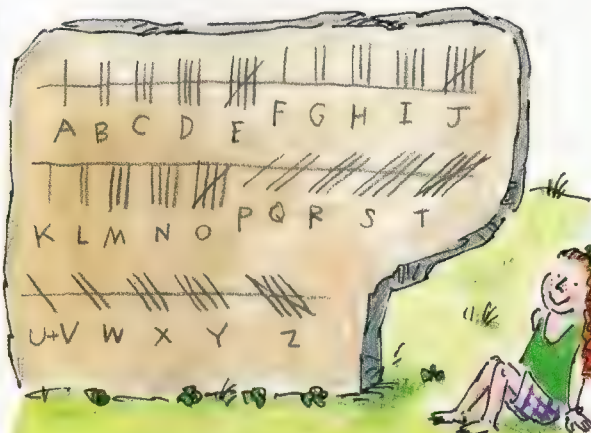
Answer these clues with the names of things you see at the beach. Write your answers in the snail. Here's the trick: the last letter of each clue's answer is the first letter of the next.

1. These break on the beach.
2. This is the beach.
3. If you're very lucky, you might get to swim with this smart animal.
4. These help you hold your breath as you swim in the sea.
5. This is what you wear.
6. This is what you lie on.
7. This person keeps you safe.
8. This is a hill of sand piled up by the wind.
9. Stay away from this electric animal!
10. This keeps ships far from a rocky shore.



What's My Line?

Anna Bakk, age 13, of Minnesota sent us this cool code. Anna's line-based letter system was actually invented by the ancient Irish. The lines themselves are called oghams (O-gums).



Use Anna's oghams to crack this riddle:
What has teeth but can't bite you?



Answer Box

Sea Spell:

1. waves, 2. sand,
3. dolphin,
4. nose plugs,
5. swimsuit, 6. towel,
7. lifeguard, 8. dune,
9. eel, 10. lighthouse

What's My Line?:

A comb.
The buzzword,
Bosamer, is used
on page 31.

Sand Sketches:

- 1.
- 2.

Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team? Because she ran away from the ball. *Alexandra Speyer* Age 10, Maryland

Because she had a pumpkin for a coach. *Lindsay Steele*

Age 10, New Jersey

What did Snow White say when she was waiting for her photos?

"Someday my prints will come!" *Lauren Erlingheuser* Age 14, Connecticut

Age 12, Wisconsin

Who's That Girl?

Here's a girl of yesterday. Read the clues about her and guess who she is now.



Clue 1

As a girl, reading, writing, and telling stories were a few of my favorite things. At 13, I wrote books about an orchestra where characters like Peter Piccolo lived in a musical village I called "Symphony."



Clue 2

When I was 12, I acted in a show where I quietly pretended to be an audience member until I was invited on stage to sing. That night, I thrilled the crowd with my grown-up singing voice.



Clue 3

I've always loved the outdoors, and I spent summers at my father's country home in England. On our nature walks, he taught me lots about birds, flowers, and animals.



Clue 4

Once, I practiced for weeks to win a special medal for ballroom dancing. On the day I was to perform for the judge, I couldn't dance because I had to go out of town. I was so upset about losing that medal!



Here I am at age 11.



Clue 5

My two best friends and I had a great dress-up trunk, which we used to create costumes for our own plays. We performed for our friends, donating the ticket money to prisoners of World War Two.

Take a guess!

When this girl grew up, she became:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> an actress | <input type="checkbox"/> a dancer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a zoologist | <input type="checkbox"/> a film director |

Turn the page and find out if you're right!

She's Julie Andrews



Anne Hathaway and Julie in *The Princess Diaries*.

This summer, actress Julie Andrews becomes a queen—at least in her new movie, *The Princess Diaries*. Growing up in England, Julie always had talent fit for royalty. At 12, Julie even sang for her country's royal family, including then-princess Elizabeth II, now the queen!

Julie's connection with the palace, as well as her early dress-up fun, came in handy for her new screen role of Queen Clarisse in *The Princess Diaries*. "I liked my role very much," says Julie, whose character tries to transform her reluctant granddaughter into a princess. "And, of course, I got to dress up in gorgeous clothes and wear a tiara!"



You can write to Julie
c/o William Morris Agency
151 El Camino Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Crowned with many successes during her career, Julie won a best actress Academy Award in 1964 for her starring performance as the magical nanny, Mary Poppins. The next year, in another much-loved role, Julie played Maria von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. Thirty-six years later, the movie is still shown on TV each year and is a favorite of girls and their families everywhere.

But Julie's never forgotten how much fun she had writing stories when she was young. Julie is also an author whose books for girls include *Mandy* and *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles*. "Writing is probably as thrilling as anything I've done," she says.

Whether she's acting or writing, Julie says, "I have found great joy in giving all that I have to offer in my own special ways!" ★

Julie's advice to American girls:

"Sometimes opportunities float right past your nose. Work hard, apply yourself, and be ready. When opportunity comes, you can grab it!"

Julie Andrews

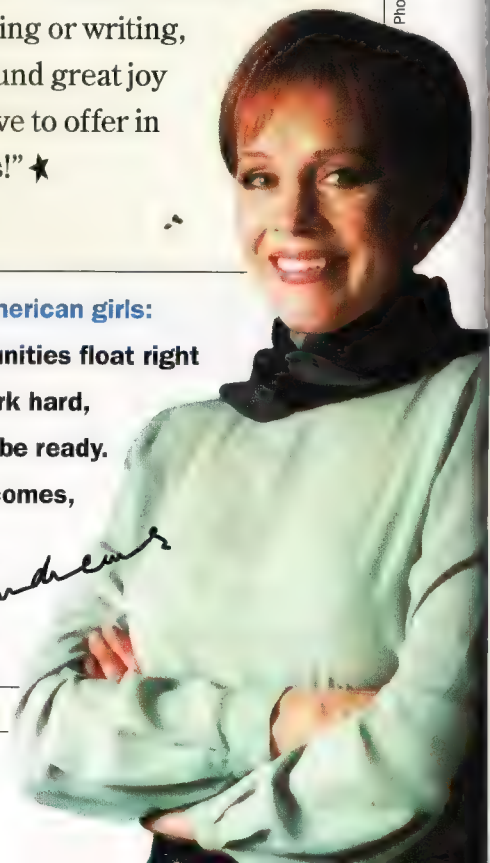


Photo credits on page 2.



With the Mini Mag, you can make a miniature copy of *American Girl*. All you need are scissors and a stapler. Read the directions all the way through before you begin.

1 Cut out each pair of pages only on the dotted lines. Be sure to cut around the tabs marked with the letters A, B, C, and D.



2 Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown below, with the letters on the tabs facing up.



Continued

HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I have short hair, and I can't do anything with it! Almost everyone I know has beautiful long hair to play with. But mine's just straight brown hair.

Boring Hair

Long hair is fun, but it's also lots of work—it takes more time to wash, brush, style, and dry. You might decide it's more fun to play with a friend's long hair than to deal with your own. But if you still want long locks, get growing! Use cute hair clips or bobby pins to dress up your short 'do as it grows.



Dear American Girl,

I'm a really good swimmer, but my mom doesn't think so. Every time I go to camp, she writes that I'm a beginner swimmer. Then I can't do as much in the pool.

Shallow-end Swimmer

Has Mom seen your swimming skills lately? If not, take a trip to the pool so she can see you in action. If she's still not sure, earning a Red Cross swimming certificate will guarantee that you've got the skills you need.



Call your local chapter to sign up for a class. You'll swim a whole lot better, and your mom will feel better, too.



Dear American Girl,

I must have the most annoying brother in the universe! He argues over everything, even cereal. With him, every day is a bad day. My parents say I take it too hard, but it's impossible to ignore this kid! Please help me.

Oh, Brother!

You've talked to your parents about your brother, and you've tried ignoring him. Assuming you've also tried getting away from him, it's time to try something drastic. Be as nice as possible to your brother, even if he's acting like a troll. Remember this: he can't argue

by himself. See how long you can last without fighting. Pretend it's a game. Give him a compliment before he has a chance to growl at you. Go out of your way to do a favor for him. It won't be easy, and it won't seem fair, but he may be so surprised that he snaps out of his grouchiness. Good luck!



Dear American Girl,

My best friend loves to joke around, but sometimes she really hurts my feelings. I've tried being serious with her to tell her how I feel, but she always thinks I'm joking.

What can I do?

Funny Friend

Sounds like timing could be the key to getting your friend to understand how you feel. Try telling her *before* she makes her next joke, not right after. Start by saying, "What's funny to you isn't always funny to me." Don't accuse her—simply say how it makes you feel. If she still hurts your feelings with her "jokes," it may be time to find a friend who laughs with you—not at you.

MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

My mom makes me go to bed way too early. I like to stay up late, plus all my friends get a later bedtime than I do.

Early Bedtime

Even though it's summer, your family may still have to be early risers. You need to get enough sleep so you don't slow everyone down in the morning. Your mom might let you stay up later on the weekends if you ask her nicely, especially if you go to bed (and get up!) without complaining the rest of the week. Here's a tip: don't say that your friends can stay up late. It's true: Mom doesn't care.



Dear American Girl,

Last summer, I went with my family to Austria. This spring break, I went to England. I've had so many great adventures, but I don't have anyone to share them with. If I tell my friends, they think I'm bragging. I want to tell someone about my trips!

Vacation Blues

Try telling your friends about your adventures—while you're having



them! Everyone loves to get mail, especially from other countries, so send postcards to your friends. If you see lots of great sights, send a card from each place. You can also make a scrapbook of your trip when you get back and share that with your friends. But keep it short—it's always more fun to take a vacation than to hear about one afterward.



Dear American Girl,

My family and I just moved into our new house. We don't have a television yet, so I asked my mom when we're getting a TV, and she said we weren't! I can't live without TV.

TV-less

You can live without TV. Instead of sitting around feeling sorry for

yourself, think of all the things you'll have time for without TV. Then, do them! Get a best-seller at the library, host a game night for your friends, teach your cat a trick, write a fan letter, pick out a recipe and try it, climb a tree, make up a new dive at the pool, start a band, throw a surprise party, take your grandma to a movie, paint a picture on a real canvas, or bead bracelets and sell them. Still need ideas? Go to page 22 for inspiration. Once you're having fun, you won't believe you ever had time for TV.



Advice from You

"When you're feeling down, smile at someone, and I'll bet they'll smile back. That always makes me feel better."

Jenna Anthony
Age 12, New Jersey

Need advice? Got advice? Write:
Help!

AmericanGirl

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

Shining Star

Last summer's wildfires in the western United States hit very close to home for ten-year-old Shaylynn Durgin. Shaylynn's dad worked as a firefighter on Wyoming's Wind River Indian Reservation. The fire there wiped out about 137,000 acres of mountain forest. Tens of thousands of trees were burned!



When Shaylynn heard about the destruction, she wanted to do something to help. "It will take Mother Earth a long time to grow back the trees herself, so I wanted to speed up the process," she says.

Shaylynn asked local clubs and groups to donate trees for her replanting project. Then she made "Pennies for Plants" donation cans and placed them in businesses around her community. "The Pennies for Plants money will help buy additional trees," she says, "and the more trees we get, the larger the area we'll cover."

Together with her 4-H club and her fourth-grade classmates, Shaylynn planted more than 100 trees this spring! "I'm proud to be a part of replanting," Shaylynn says. "It may not make a big difference this summer when the trees are small, but later on, when there's a forest again, I can say I had a part in making it happen."

Do you have a friend who really shines as a volunteer? Maybe you're a star volunteer yourself. Write to the address on page 2 to tell us all about the shining stars you know. Each girl we honor receives a certificate and a sparkly star pendant—and AG will donate \$500 to her cause. ★





American Girl

Coming up in the September/October issue

Make the Grade!

A+ ideas for going back to school

Animal Angel

Meet a girl who rescues injured animals

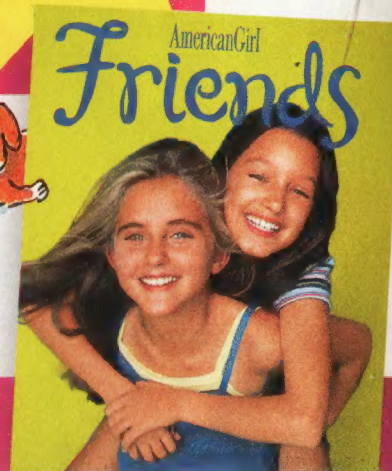
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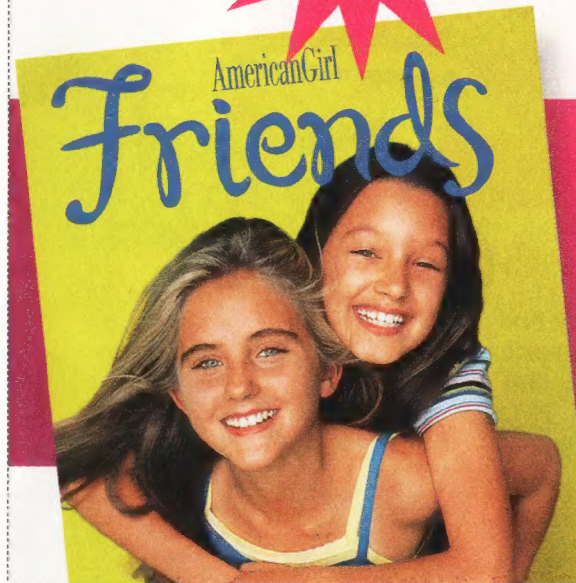
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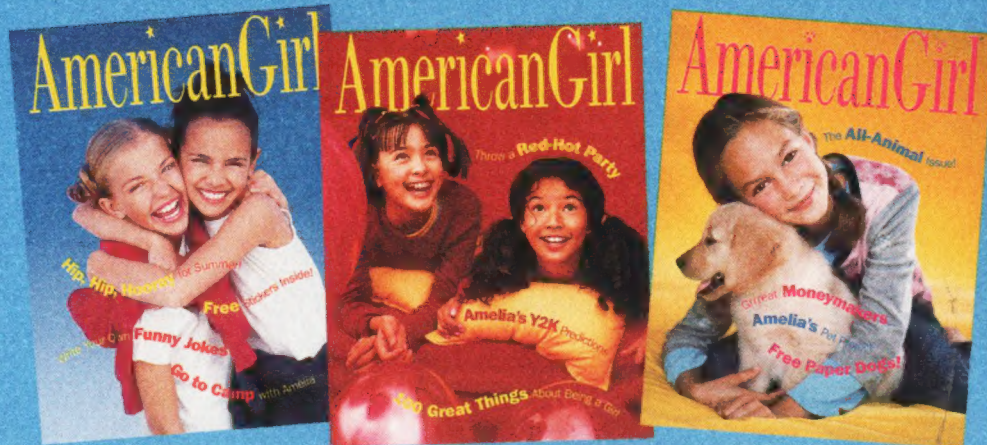
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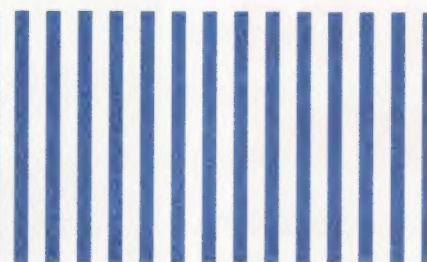
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